

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
-----029319 171719Z /45

R 171631Z MAR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2694
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK POUCH

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FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MARCH 13-19

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AN EAST-WEST EXCHANGE OF DISAGGREGATED
GROUND FORCE DATA TOOK PLACE ON MARCH 15 FOLLOWING ORAL
STATEMENTS BY EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS INCORPORATING
SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED CHANGES IN THE DEC 14 EASTERN DRAFT
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TEXT. EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS ALSO EXCHANGED SOME
INITIAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE NEWLY INTRO-
DUCED FIGURES. IN RESPONSE TO A CORRESPONDENT'S
QUESTION POSED AT THE MARCH 16 POST-PLENARY PRESS
BREIFING, THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE
TABLING OF ADDITIONAL DATA. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING CONFIRMATION EARLIER IN THE DAY BY EASTERN REPS THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE DEC 14 EASTERN TEXT OF THE PREAMBULAR ORAL STATEMENTS, AS SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED, EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS EXCHANGED DISAGGREGATED GROUND FORCE DATA AT THE MARCH 15 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS. EARLIER IN THE SESSION, WEST AND EAST MADE STATEMENTS ON GENERAL TOPICS. THE EASTERN GENERAL STATEMENT INCLUDED THE ASSERTION THAT A WESTERN DECISION TO PRODUCE AND DEPLOY NEUTRON WEAPONS WOULD IMPEDE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AGREEMENT IN THE TALKS.

3. THE DISAGGREGATED EASTERN FIGURES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS

USSR	344,600
GDR	74,100
POLAND	115,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	104,700

B. GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OTHER THAN IN MAJOR FORMATIONS

USSR	81,700
GDR	18,900
POLAND	33,600
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	32,400

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(COMMENT: AS WAS NOTED IN A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE NAC ON THE NEW EASTERN DATA FORWARDED BY THE AD HOC GROUP ON MARCH 17, THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN DATA ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA IS UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED AND POINTS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE TO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES IN SOVIET AND POLISH FORCES. THE COMPARABLE NATO ESTIMATES, USING THE EASTERN METHOD OF ALLOCATION BETWEEN GROUND AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST THOUSAND, ARE:

A. GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL IN MAJOR FORMATIONS

USSR	411,000
GDR	78,000
POLAND	133,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	92,000

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B. GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL OTHER THAN IN MAJOR FORMATIONS:

USSR 75,000
GDR 29,000
POLAND 73,000
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 46,000 END COMMENT)

WESTERN REPS ASKED FOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HOW EASTERN GROUND
FORCE PERSONNEL HAD BEEN ALLOCATED AS
BETWEEN MAJOR FORMATIONS AND OTHERS WHICH EASTERN REPS
SAID THEY WOULD ANSWER LATER. IT WAS AGREED TO CONTINUE
THE SESSION ON MARCH 16.

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4. IN THE MARCH 16 CONTINUATION INFORMAL SESSION,
EASTERN REPS RESPONDED TO THE WESTERN ALLOCATIONS QUESTIONS
OF THE PREVIOUS DAY. THEY ASKED THREE QUESTIONS OF
THEIR OWN CONCERNING THE ALLOCATION OF PERSONNEL WITHIN

WESTERN GROUND FORCE DATA. WESTERN REPS ANSWERED TWO OF THE EASTERN QUESTIONS AND DEFERRED A RESPONSE TO THE THIRD FOR A FUTURE SESSION WHILE EASTERN REPS ALSO SET ASIDE A FOR A FUTURE RESPONSE A NEW WESTERN QUESTION REGARDING EASTERN ALLOCATION.

5. IN REPLY TO A CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION POSED AT THE MARCH 16 REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING, THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED THAT QUOTE BOTH SIDES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MODALITIES AND EXCHANGED ADDITIONAL DATA THIS WEEK UNQUOTE. THIS RESPONSE WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CONTINGENCY UNDERSTANDING THE SPOKESMAN HAD WORKED OUT WITH HIS EASTERN COUNTERPART PRIOR TO THE BRIEFING.

6. FRG REP BEHRENDT MADE THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 16 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION CONTRASTED THE UNREALISTIC NATURE OF THE EASTERN REDUCTION APPROACH WITH THE REALISM OF WESTERN PROPOSALS.

7. THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING OF THE VIENNA TALKS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 31. THE NEXT INFORMAL SESSION WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3. THERE IS EAST-WEST AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION OF DISAGGREGATED GROUND FORCE DATA ON THE LATTER DATE AND TO EXCHANGE ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE DATA AT A FURTHER INFORMAL SESSION SET FOR APRIL 4.

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8. THE AD HOC GROUP REPORT REFERRED TO IN PARA 3 STRESSED THAT IT WAS IN THE WESTERN INTEREST TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLY WITH THE EASTERN REQUEST TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL THE CONTENTS OF THE MARCH 15 DATA EXCHANGE. RESOR

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